

Predisaster Mitigation Guidance

The PDM program seeks to reduce damages and the loss of life and property from natural hazards through the development and implementation of mitigation projects that are consistent with the goals and objectives identified in hazard mitigation plans. Mitigation is defined as sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Effective mitigation projects are critical to reducing natural hazard vulnerabilities and are a key component of the PDM program.

Eligible Applicant

Local or State emergency management agency or a similar office (*i.e.*, the office that has primary emergency management responsibility), or public universities, are eligible to apply for assistance. **The official applicant is the State, therefore to the extent feasible all projects should be vetted with the State agency responsible for emergency management.**

Eligible Project Activities

Proposed hazard mitigation projects must primarily focus on natural hazards but also may address hazards caused by manmade forces.

The following are examples of eligible mitigation projects:

- Voluntary acquisition of real property (*i.e.* structures and land, where necessary) for conversion to open space in perpetuity.
- Relocation of public or private structures. Relocation is the movement of a structure from one place to another. Relocation must be from an identified hazard area to an area of lower risk.
- Elevation of existing public or private structures to avoid coastal or riverine flooding to meet or exceed current National Flood Insurance Program elevation requirements.
- Structural retrofitting and non-structural retrofitting (*e.g.*, storm shutters, hurricane clips, bracing systems) of existing public or private structures to meet or exceed applicable building codes relative to hazard mitigation;
- Construction of safe rooms (tornado and severe wind shelters) for public and private structures that meet the FEMA construction criteria in FEMA 320 “Taking Shelter from the Storm” and FEMA 361 “Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters”;
- Hydrologic and hydraulic studies/analyses, engineering studies, and drainage studies for the purpose of project design and feasibility in conjunction with a project.
- Vegetation management for natural dune restoration, wildfire or snow avalanche;

Eligible Planning Activities

PDM funding may be used for the development of a new mitigation plan or comprehensive review and update of an existing FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. Hazard mitigation planning activities must primarily focus on natural hazards but may also address hazards caused by manmade events.

Plans may be either single or multi-jurisdictional. Countywide or multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans may be submitted for funding, as many mitigation issues are better resolved by evaluating hazards in a more comprehensive fashion.

Mapping activities must not duplicate eligible mapping activities available under any other Federal program or agency, such as National Flood Insurance Program map modernization activities and/or flood mapping activities.